



The Link



4th Avenue United Methodist Church, 318 W. St. Catherine, Louisville, Ky. 40203 502-585-2176
Official Supporter of the Fairness Campaign
Pastor: Rev. Jean Hawxhurst
May 2008

Pastor Jean's Comments

A theologian by the name of Diana Butler Bass spoke here in Louisville a couple months ago. She was a guest of the Presbyterians and Episcopalians in our area. And, since I sort of "have an in" with the Episcopalians, I got invited to her presentation to the clergy!

Dr. Bass' most recent book is entitled *Christianity for the Rest of Us*, and I would commend it to you. Basically, in the book and in her lecture, she described three different spectra on which every churches falls.

The first spectrum is one we all know well. It is the spectrum between conservative and liberal theologies. Churches are conservative if they interpret the Bible literally and tend toward rules for appropriate behavior. Churches are liberal if they interpret the Bible by looking for underlying messages and tend toward valuing inclusivity over rules. This battle between churches Butler Bass calls old, and out-dated. It is the other two spectra she believes we should be studying.

The second spectrum is what she refers to as the tension between "conventional and intentional." Conventional churches are those hold tradition as the most important thing. They do things because they've always done them. They do not stray from the wishes and thoughts of their judicatory hierarchy, and they strive to behave like other churches within the same tradition have for many years. Intentional churches, on the other hand, do everything they do, because there is a reason within their particular community setting to do it. Their worship is crafted for their particular community, as is their worship space, their educational method, their modes of fellowship, their communication, and their outreach. Butler Bass believes churches will only continue to live if they strive to be more intentional.

And, the third spectrum is what she refers to as the tension between "modern and post modern." We hear these

words often today, but in the church they can be a powerful tool for reflection. Churches who are modern in their style believe there is one truth. There is right, and there is wrong, and the two are separate from each other. These churches believe the modern scientific method of testing hypotheses is how ideas are proven. On the other hand, churches who are post-modern in their style believe the world is not quite so simple. They believe truth can only be agreed upon within a particular context. What truth is for one group may not be truth for another. It is the community of faith in a specific setting who must come together to define their own truth, and it may be different for another group in another context.

Diana Butler Bass suggests that liberal or progressive churches who will be successful in the future are ones who understand these spectra and who strive to be both intentional and post-modern. In our setting that would mean boldly proclaiming we are Christians in community who are progressive in our theology and our way of engaging social issues. It would mean understanding our tradition and keeping the underlying meaning of particular traditions, but intentionally bringing their meanings into our current context. It would mean asking why we do everything we do, and only continuing to do things if they have theological significance for us today. And, it would mean working together to define who we are as a group and what our truth is in the name of Jesus the Christ.

Interesting concepts. What do you think?

With joy,

Pastor Jean.

Bible Study

Currently two Bible study opportunities are available: one on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 and the other at 11:15 on Saturday mornings.

Both groups are studying the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament). So far attendance has been great, but as always more are welcome more. So, please feel free to join in this month, as we continue the study!

Worship in May at Fourth

In the 10:45 service, the following will be our worship foci:

May 4 - For this last Sunday of the Easter Season we will share together in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Our communion offering will be designated as a *thank you* gift to Craig Tuck and Kate Crandell. On the Christian Calendar this is also the "Ascension of the Lord" Sunday. The lectionary Scriptures include:

Psalms 47, Acts 1:1-1 and Luke 24:44-53.

May 11 - This is Pentecost, Mothers' Day, and the last day for our two student interns for this year. Lectionary Scriptures are:

Psalms 104, Acts 2:1-21, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 and John 7:37-39.

May 18 - On the United Methodist Calendar this is "Trinity Sunday" as well as "Heritage Sunday." We will take up a special offering for our Annual Conference mission emphasis.

The following are the Lectionary passages: Genesis 1:1-2,4a, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, and Matthew 28:16-20.

May 25 - On this Memorial Day weekend, we will be celebrating "Aldersgate Sunday."

Lectionary Scriptures include: Isaiah 49:8-16a, Psalm 131, 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, and Matthew 6:24-34.

Lindsey Wilson Singers and Lighthouse

The Lighthouse, a United Methodist Community Center, is pleased to announce that the famous Lindsey Wilson College "Singers" will present a benefit performance for the children of Lighthouse on May 4 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Paul United Methodist Church. Tickets are \$12, and you may order your tickets from Jim Sutton at 243-4080 or Sandy Farrar at 245-5958. You may also purchase your tickets the day of the concert, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Kentucky Annual Conference

As we begin the month of May, and our delegates from the General Conference are just now coming home, we are also preparing for our own Kentucky Annual Conference. It will be held this year June 1 - 4 at the Galt House in downtown Louisville. Volunteers are needed in lots of areas to help make our out of town guests feel welcome. Contact Annie Haigler (ahaig@netzero.net) to offer your assistance. We will also be hosting several lunches here at Fourth Avenue. If you want to serve as a greeter/host for

these events, see Pastor Jean.

Our mission offering this year will be collected on May 18th. We will be giving this year, along with our brothers and sisters from across Kentucky, to support the ministries of:

The Red Bird Mission in eastern Kentucky
The Bishop's East Africa Initiative, and
Katrina Recovery through the Mississippi Annual Conference.

Help Ministries

HELP Ministries is our local area ministry, in which 6 local churches come together to provide ministry services for those in our neighborhood in need. Mary Anne Tenfelde and Jean Hawxhurst represent Fourth Avenue on the HELP board. There are lots of ways you can get involved in this work, particularly through volunteering to serve in the HELP office assisting persons in need. See Mary Anne if you would like more information, or would like to offer a couple hours a month/week to this important community ministry. (A special volunteer training event will be held on May 8 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the HELP office.)

Communion Offering for Interns

(From Pastor Jean)

We want to let Craig Tuck and Kate Crandell know how much we have appreciated their ministry among us this school year. They have brought joy, understanding, and witnesses of strong faith to our church family. Their last official day with us for this semester will be May 11. After that time, Kate hopes to study some other denominations and apply for a hospital chaplaincy program. Craig hopes to take a little time off, and then come back and join us again for his last year of seminary (thanks be to God!).

We will designate our communion offering in the month of May to thank you gifts to these two friends. When you come forward to receive the Sacrament on May 4, bring a financial gift with you, leave it on the communion railing, and it will be put in the pastors' discretionary fund. All money given on this Sunday will go as gifts directly to Kate and Craig on the following Sunday.

Meetings in May

May 6 - Trustees at 6:00 p.m.

May 10 - United Methodist Men at 9:30 a.m.

May 13 - Worship Team at 6:00 p.m.

May 17 - Progressive United Methodists of Kentucky at 10:30 at Highland UMC

May 22 - Tri-Covenant meeting at 2:00 (Cathedral of the Assumption)

May 28 - Leadership Council at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Forums

The Wednesday Forums in May will all be times of Bible Study with our pastoral staff. Come at 5:00 for prayer in the chapel, 5:30 for dinner (please make a reservation!), and 6:00 for study. See Matthew Blandford and Chris Baker for details.

Thank You's (From Pastor Jean)

- C to the Wiedebach Family for the gift of a new vacuum cleaner.
- C to the Foster-Berry Family for the gift of a new stereo system.
- C to Gil and Bettye Schroerlucke for tirelessly putting together this newsletter.
- C to all those who donated the new *Faith We Sing* hymnals.
- C to those who volunteer with the Side Door lunches and with the Coffee House.

Congratulations!! (From Pastor Jean)

- I to James Sillery for completing his master's degree!
- I to Tish Jeffries for giving birth to a beautiful baby girl on April 16!
- I to Sami and Chris Baker, who are expecting!
- I to Kimberly Jones, who is now working at a new job in Carolina!
- I to the Council on Mental Retardation, whose new building is almost complete!
- I to Russell Behanan and Jacqui Lovett, who have been asked to sing a duet at the Kentucky Annual Conference

The Rose Circle will meet in the church parlor at 10:30 am on May 6. Everyone is welcome.

Caryl Keeley needs two car seats. See her if you can help.

Larry Curry shares his Original Oil Paintings



As interested observers watch (that is, except Craig! More sleep might be the answer!!!!)

A Bit of History

By Sarah Sloan and Les Gross

Fourth Avenue is no stranger to social justice issues! During the 1970's our church was involved in ecumenical and neighborhood ministries that served the people without regard to race and/or socio-economic status. The church established the *Avenue on Third Street* behind the church, a half-way house for alcoholics.

The church opened its doors to the Old Louisville Child Care Center, allowing space to be utilized. The purpose of this neighborhood facility was to have affordable quality child care to all incomes and to all backgrounds of people.

The Neighborhood Development Corporation had its beginnings right here at Fourth Avenue. The impetus for this housing rehabilitation program was begun by several of our very own.

Fourth Avenue was one of the founders of HELP ministries of Central Louisville. Over the years the office has moved from old Louisville to downtown, but all through the years Fourth Avenue has remained an active member.

And our ministry of sharing God's love in the heart of the city goes on!

Special Notice From Pastor Jean

Hello Everyone,

This is to notify you there will be a called Charge Conference meeting on Wednesday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor at the church building. All leaders and Leadership Council representatives are asked to be in attendance. Rev. Sarah Ewing has been given permission by our DS, Mike Gibbons, to chair the meeting, and the only business of the meeting will be to set the pastor's salary for this year. (Therefore, it presumably will not be a long meeting.)

I suggest you might want to come early for prayer in the chapel at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 5:30 p.m (Don't forget to register). and the Bible Study, which begins at 6:00 p.m.

Thank you!

Memorials

Gifts in memory of Charles Bush, son of Mary and Chad Dobbs, have been given by The CircleFellowship/Keystone Sunday School Class, Charles and Mary Ann Brockwell and Lucy Mitchell.

May Birthdays

May /3	Jose Gonzalez
	Greg Sanders
May 4	Josh Coffey
May 5	Rev. Pauline Carr
May 10	Debbie Sokoloff
May 11	Bill Yates
May 12	Mathew Blandford
May 14	Lindsey Christensen
May 17	Ed Copeland
	Jeanne Parcher
May 18	Chuck Kleinhans
May 21	Juanita Kissling
	Soliel Harris
	Reiss Heady
May 22	Chester Carpenter* *
May 25	Edy Johnson
	Carolyn Cressman
May 26	Margaret Carroll
May 28	Sarah Sloan

** Although he is no longer with us, we will remember Chester in our thoughts and prayers on his "special" day!

Baptisms

Dayton Lamont Johnson was baptized on March 23, 2008. Dayton Lamont is the son of Soi Torres-Lindon and brother of Charlie and Seth.

Imani Lee Marshall was baptized on March 23, 2008. Imani Lee is the daughter of John and Toshca Marshall, sister of Kia, Isaiah, Emmanuel and Justus and granddaughter of April DuVal.

Zachary Scott Weideback was baptized on March 30, 2008. Zachary is the son of Jeanine and Scott Weideback and the grandson of Jacqui Lovett.

New Member

Peggy Bennett was received into membership on April 6, Peggy, who transferred from another United Methodist Church, resides at 1518 Belmar Drive, Louisville, KY 40213.



Peggy Bennett

Clayton shared his pencil drawings



The Brundi Singers at the coffee house



Louisville Friends Meeting (Quakers) is now the spiritual home to 27 Quakers from Burundi. The families (seen in the picture here with Louisville Quakers Maie Klaphaak (kneeling) and Bob (back row left) and Marge (front glasses) Manke, and Terry Taylor (white hair beard) of Interfaiths Paths to Peace) and Ernest Ngendakumana (left of Terry Taylor - Burundi Quaker and father of several of the young performers) performed for the Interfaith Paths to Peace Coffee House on April 17, singing songs of worship in their native Burundi language. The families are refugees who fled a civil war in their African nation and lived for more than a decade in Tanzania before arriving in Louisville last year. They have become a treasure to the Friends Meeting and often sing at worship services there.

The Coffee House

From Kate Crandall

Dear Faith Community,

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you for all your help and support with the *4th Avenue Coffee House: Standing on Holy Grounds*. I would like to especially recognize and thank Courtland Rose, Tammy Jeffries, and Clayton Walls for all their help in transforming Fellowship Hall into a beautiful and cozy Coffee House space. And many, many thanks to the Healing Place men for their willingness to move furniture to and from Fellowship Hall.

There is a well known passage in Ecclesiastes chapter 3 that is entitled: "A Time for Everything." I was hopeful that I could have passed the Coffee House "baton" to a new leader and a new team of volunteers so that this ministry could have continued without interruption. However, since there has not yet been a group of new leaders to take over the 4th Avenue Coffee House, this ministry will transition into a season of hibernation while awaiting renewed interest and leadership.

Please see Pastor Jean or Pastor Sarah if you are interested in awakening the 4th Avenue Coffee House ministry. There are many paths this ministry could take; one of which is to work with Terry Taylor and Interfaith Paths to Peace. The sky is the limit and with God *all* things are

possible!

Thank you for all you do in the name of Christ,
Kate Crandall

Kate & Terry Taylor at the coffee house



The food table at the coffee house

A Word From Edy Johnson

Would you like to honor a member of your family, a friend, a church member, living or dead? Then consider placing a basket of flowers on the communion table for a Sunday morning worship service. The cost is \$30.00. See Edy Johnson to get on the schedule.

Edy wishes to say thanks to each person who has, previously, given flowers. The flowers are a pleasant addition to our worship setting

A Word from Sally Rose

I attended the Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial meeting of the United Methodist Women April 4 - 6 in Hampton, Virginia. There were 1,199 other women from 14 conferences attending.

Bishop Michael Watson from the California Conference and Bishop Charlene Kammerer from the Virginia Conference spoke about the theme, "Called By Name," using scriptures Isaiah 43:1 - 3a and John 10:3-4.

Bishop Kammerer led the Sunday communion service which, remarkably, only took 15 minutes! It was very moving to hear the delegates singing The Lord's Prayer as they participated in the service.

The president of the Women's Division, Kyung Za Kim and the CEO, Harriett Jane Olson welcomed the ladies.

This was quite an experience and I am glad I was there.
Sally Rose

Arts and Spirituality

From Courtland Rose

Historical and Nautical Oil Paintings, an exhibit by Larry Curry, are currently on view in Central Hall.

Carol Rhodes has begun a decoupage class that meets Tuesdays from 2 to 4 in the Art Room. Their creations will be exhibited when the classes end.

Gil Schroerlucke will have a special show in early June. It will include woodworking items, knitting and macrame, song writing with sound, pictures of construction done and newspaper articles.

Pastor Sarah and an official from Norton Hospital standing in front of the newly renovated and dedicated chapel at Norton Pavilion Hospital. Sarah was the chaplain there for years, and there is a pew in the chapel dedicated in her honor.

Motet Singers

From Laura Curry

The Motet Singers, based at St. Paul UMC, will perform a fundraising Pop Concert at St. Paul UMC Family Life Center on Bardstown Rd at Douglass Blvd. for the HELP Ministries of Central Louisville on June 1 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will also include spirituals and other sacred music. The Motet Singers, an accomplished choral group, of over 40 voices, began 54 years ago and is directed by Dave Jones, a former WHAS-TV director and producer. Among the highlights in the group's history was providing the music at a 1974 St. Patrick's Day service in the White House.

The hall at St. Paul Family Life Center seats about 250 people. Persons at Fourth Avenue will lead in the effort to sell tickets for \$10.00 each. Similar concerts which have been the finale of the Motet seasons for the past several years have raised thousands of dollars for community ministries and like purposes.

The HELP Ministries of Central Louisville is Fourth Avenue's community ministry, along with 6 sister

churches. HELP Ministries provides direct and personal assistance to residents of the Central Louisville community who are in need, in the form of emergency rent, emergency utility, prescription vouchers, Winterhelp, monthly food vouchers, personal care items, general advocacy and referral services.

Tickets for the Motet Singers concert can be purchased through Jean Hawxhurst, Laura Curry, David Stewart, and Larry Curry. (Checks should be made out to HELP Ministries.) Supporting contributions are also accepted. Get your tickets for this terrific concert and support HELP Ministries!



Pastor Sarah and an official from Norton Hospital standing in front of the newly renovated and dedicated chapel at Norton Pavilion Hospital. Sarah was the chaplain there for years, and there is a pew in the chapel dedicated in her honor

Congratulations Sarah!

"Liberal Christians believe that compassion is the way of Jesus." Jan Linn

8:45 Sunday Worship Leaders

May 4 - Prayer, Praise & Healing

May 11 - Roxie Keesee

May 18 - Chris Baker

May 25 - Sara Ewing

UMM Breakfast

May 10

9:30 am

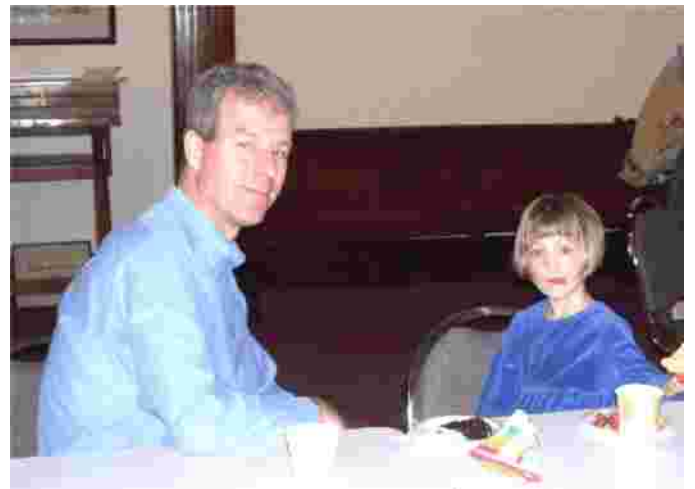
Craig Tuck will continue the discussion on, "What it means to be masculine."

Mark your calendar and bring a friend.

David Stewart

When Americans hunger for selfless love and are fed only love of self, they will remain hungry. Bill McKibben

Scenes from Fellowship in the Parlor



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Wesley House Needs Your Help

by Caryl Keeley

Wesley House has wonderful opportunities for volunteers.

The WearHouse, a top-notch thrift shop, has had to limit the days it is open because of a lack of volunteer staffing. It's a fun place to meet and work with other United Methodists from various Louisville churches, and a good place to do some shopping too! Work is usually done in three hour or six hour shifts.

This year, in anticipation of the annual Wesley House Walk, there will be a Kickoff Celebration on May 31, from 10 am to 2 pm, at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 2000 Douglass Boulevard. There will be a silent auction and bake sale with proceeds going to Wesley House. Also, Norton Cancer Institute will have there a mobile unit offering no-cost mammography, pap tests, and prostate exams for those 40 and over. To make an appointment for any of these tests, please call 899-6842.

Then on Saturday, June 7, come out and **Walk for Wesley House**. The walk officially begins at 9 am, but you may start anytime between 7:30 am and noon. The Walk begins and ends at St. Paul United Methodist Church.

See Caryl Keeley to find out how you can form a Walk Team. Or you may walk on your own! Every person who raises \$25.00 or more will receive a short-sleeved Walk T-shirt. This is a great way to get some exercise, see your friends, and help a good United Methodist cause.